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HEALTH

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BOROUGH OF UXBRIDGE

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1955

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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1955

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
259, HIGH STREET,
UXBRIDGE.

June, 1956.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE UXBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

This is a factual report on the work of the Public Health Department during 1955. There were no extraordinary happenings of any special significance unless the expected biannual increase in measles cases can be regarded as coming within this definition.

The population (mid-year 1955) was 57,940 and this shows a small increase over the previous year's figure. There were 16,142 inhabited houses.

Once again the principal vital statistics may be regarded as satisfactory. The corrected birth rate of 15·9 and the corrected death rate of 10·4 compare quite favourably with the rates for England and Wales of 15·0 and 11·7 respectively. In 1955 there was a very welcome fall in the infantile mortality rate; the figure for the district being only 14·2 as compared with the national rate of 24·9. Naturally this is very gratifying, but it should be borne in mind that comparatively small numbers are involved so that wide variations in the rate are to be expected. I have set out in the body of the report the causes of, and ages at death of those infants who died under one year of age. From this it will be seen that a great deal of research is still needed into the various causes of still-birth and early infantile deaths, and it may be remembered that I drew attention to this matter in my report last year. The circumstances of each infant death are very carefully reviewed in the light of all the associated health services. The question is always asked, "Could this death have been prevented by any means at our disposal?" It is now found, however, that more and more of these deaths have a causation which is, at present, unknown, and much further effort must be expended in finding out the answers to these very difficult problems.

The number of deaths from cancer has increased but it must be remembered that the population has also increased and so has the number of people reaching the age at which cancer can be

expected. I have included a table showing the trend over recent years. The problem of cancer, particularly that of cancer of the lung, is very much in the public mind at the moment but here again, progress in dealing with this disease can only come after more knowledge is gained of the primary cause or causes.

I have mentioned above that 1955 was an epidemic year for measles. The great majority of cases were mild and uncomplicated and there were no deaths from this disease. During 1955 there were fewer cases of whooping cough than in the previous year and there were fewer cases of scarlet fever. Once again there was no case of diphtheria notified. How long the district will remain free from diphtheria will depend solely on the state of immunity brought about by inoculation in infancy and boosted in childhood. Diphtheria is so rare to-day that many young parents have not heard of it and indeed many young doctors have never seen it. It is understandable, therefore, that it becomes more and more difficult to persuade parents to have their child undergo a process to enable it to resist something they know of only by hearsay. I must, therefore, repeat what I have stated in previous years, that inoculation must be kept up if cases of diphtheria are to remain non-existent.

There was no case of smallpox in the district during 1955. Placed as the district is, adjoining an international airport, it is most essential that protection against smallpox should be given to all infants by vaccination. Sooner or later a case of smallpox will arrive in this district from abroad and then it will be necessary for all contacts to be vaccinated. Infant vaccination is easy and comparatively safe; any subsequent vaccinations then become trivial procedures causing little or no upset, whereas primary vaccination in an adult can be most upsetting.

The number of prophylactic inoculations and vaccines now available may seem bewildering to many parents. Much research is going on to try to cut down the number of injections needed. It is usual now to give with the diphtheria inoculation, whooping cough and tetanus protection. More recently, a vaccine to protect against poliomyelitis has been developed, but this is still in the experimental stage and, up to the present, it has to be given separately. Maybe in the course of time all these things may be able to be given in one series of injections, with the exception of the smallpox vaccination which will have to remain as a separate procedure.

Much attention has been paid in recent years to the question of food hygiene. This work has now reached such a stage that it is no longer regarded as a special activity of the Public Health Department but is treated as one of the routine functions to be carried out along with the other duties in the usual day to day work. The new Food and Drugs Regulations will be a considerable step forward and will help the work along considerably. There are, however, two points which should be mentioned. It is quite useless going to great lengths to encourage shopkeepers and others

to supply clean, wholesome food, if proper precautions are not taken in the home for its correct storage and use. Secondly, the work of the Public Health Department can be very much reinforced if members of the public would complain about unhygienic practices in shops and cafes at the time they are seen. The food trader to-day has a very clear idea of the hygiene standards necessary for his business. It is up to the members of the public as well as the Public Health Department to see that these standards are maintained.

Public Health work is essentially team work. Its value depends largely on the amount of co-operation between the team's constituent members. I am very glad to say that there has been continued close co-operation between the Borough, County, Hospital and General Practitioner services. Further, the team-work in the department itself has been most gratifying, and I wish to place on record my indebtedness to Mr. Baughan, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the other members of the Public Health Department for their very good work during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

O. C. DOBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

AREA

Total area of Borough 10,240 acres.

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1955 is 57,940.

No. of inhabited dwellings 16,142

TOTAL BIRTHS

Sex		<i>Live</i>	<i>Live</i>	<i>Stillborn</i>	<i>Stillborn</i>	Total
		<i>Legitimate</i>	<i>Illegitimate</i>	<i>Legitimate</i>	<i>Illegitimate</i>	
Males	...	489	15	11	1	516
Females	...	467	18	5	—	490
		—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	956	33	16	1	1,006
		—	—	—	—	—

BIRTH RATE

	No.	Birth Rate	Basis	
LIVE BIRTHS	989	17·1	Crude Rate	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
		15·9	Corrected Rate	
STILL BIRTHS	17	16·9	Per 1,000 total (<i>i.e.</i> live and still) births	

These births occurred as under:

		<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
At home	... ..	377	3
In hospitals, nursing homes or other maternity establishments		612	14
		—	—
		989	17
		—	—

The Birth Rates for England and Wales were:

Live Births	... ..	15·0
Still Births	... ..	23·1

In calculating the Live Birth Rate the crude rate of 17·1 has been adjusted by the Registrar-General's Area Comparability Factor of 0·93 to give a figure of 15·9 per thousand of the estimated population. This allows for age and sex distribution of the inhabitants of the district and enables a proper comparison to be made with other districts or the country as a whole.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE

There has been a slight increase in the number of deaths from 489 to 502 and the crude Death Rate has increased from 8·6 to

8·7 per 1,000 of the Registrar-General's estimated population; the corrected Death Rate increasing from 10·2 to 10·3.

	Total Deaths (All Causes)	Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's esti- mated Resident Population
Male	252	8·7 Crude Rate
Female	250	
TOTAL	502	10·4 Corrected Rate

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11·7.

The application of the Area Comparability Factor of 1·19 to the crude Death Rate of 8·7 has increased the figure to 10·4.

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Population	55,160	55,060	55,320	56,000	56,840	57,940
Malignant neoplasm, stom- ach	15	11	17	16	21	14
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus... ..	16	19	23	16	18	27
Malignant neoplasm, breast	11	7	3	8	9	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	5	4	8	4	5	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	47	52	40	43	48	52
Totals	94	93	91	87	101	108
Rates per 1,000 of population						
OXBRIDGE						
All causes	1·7	1·7	1·6	1·6	1·8	1·9
Lung and bronchus ...	0·29	0·34	0·42	0·29	0·32	0·47
ENGLAND AND WALES						
All causes	2·0	2·0	2·0	2·0	2·0	2·1
Lung and bronchus ...	0·28	0·30	0·32	0·34	0·37	0·39

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
In Total Live Births ...	8	6	14

The number of deaths of infants under one year has decreased from 25 during 1954 to 14 during 1955. The rate per 1,000 live births for the year under review is 14·2 which is well below the figure of 24·9 for England and Wales.

The following table gives details of infant deaths:—

Date of Death	Age	Sex	Cause of Death
27.1.55	3 months	M	Broncho-pneumonia. Prematurity.
10.3.55	3 hours	M	Intra pulmonary haemorrhage.
24.4.55	4 days	F	Broncho-pneumonia. Prematurity.
14.7.55	11 hours	F	Atelectasis neonatorum.
28.8.55	10 months	M	Toxaemia. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
6.9.55	14 hours	F	Asphyxia neonatorum. Inhalation of liquor amnii. Breech presentation.
26.9.55	3 days	F	Kernicterus.
13.10.55	6 hours	M	Atelectasis (Pulmonary). Prematurity.
13.10.55	4 hours	M	Atelectasis (Pulmonary). Prematurity.
18.10.55	20 mins.	—	Intracranial haemorrhage. Breech delivery.
16.11.55	3 days	F	Erythroblastosis incompatibility. Prematurity.
26.11.55	5 days	F	Haemorrhagia. Broncho-pneumonia. Meningitis.
22.12.55	12 mins.	—	Prematurity.
22.12.55	2 months	M	Broncho-pneumonia. Otitis media.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics.

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	5	9
Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	2	—	2
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	7	14
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	25	2	27
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	10	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	23	29	52
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	—	3
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	19	35	54
Coronary disease, angina	39	24	63
Hypertension with heart disease	4	10	14
Other heart disease	30	56	86
Other circulatory disease	13	12	25
Influenza	—	2	2
Pneumonia	6	13	19
Bronchitis	26	5	31
Other disease of respiratory system ...	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	—	6
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	3	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	21	20	41
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
All other accidents	6	7	13
Suicide	1	2	3
Homicide and operations of war... ..	—	—	—
All causes	252	250	502

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases during 1955 and gives comparisons with the previous year.

Disease	Ages of Cases Notified								Total 1955	Total 1954	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital		Deaths	
	Under One Year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over	Age un- known			1955	1954	1955	1954
											1955	1954		
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	7	19	1	1	1	—	30	45	3	6	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	2	10	11	16	—	1	—	—	40	107	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	23	225	283	617	11	4	4	2	1169	41	7	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	4	4	4	2	1	34	—	51	50	24	36	19	17
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	6	1	6	—	—
Poliomyelitis (paralytic) ...	2	1	1	5	2	1	2	—	14	2	13	2	2	—
” (non-paralytic)	—	2	2	—	—	1	4	—	9	3	9	3	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (infective) ...	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	4	—	4	—	—	—
” (post infectious)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	3	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	4	3	1	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	41	57	1	99	118	99	117	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	3	—	—
Tuberculosis (pulmonary) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
” (non-pulmonary)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	1	1	3	4	See Table	See Table	—	27	17	3	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

	NEW CASES NOTIFIED					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Under 1	1	—	1	—	—	—
1—4	1	—	1	—	—	—
5—14	2	—	2	2	1	3
15—24	1	6	7	—	1	1
25—34	11	6	17	—	1	1
35—44	3	1	4	—	—	—
45—54	7	—	7	1	—	1
55—64	6	2	8	—	—	—
65 and over	3	1	4	—	—	—
TOTALS	35	16	51	3	3	6

	DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Under 1	1	—	1	—	—	—
1—4	1	—	1	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	—	1	1	—	—	—
35—44	1	—	1	1	—	1
45—54	—	2	2	—	—	—
55—64	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	2	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	5	9	1	—	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the numbers of children immunised during the year at Middlesex County Council Welfare Clinics or by private medical practitioners.

AGE	Primary Immunisation			Reinforcing Injections		
	Diph- theria only	Combined Diph- theria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough only	Diph- theria only	Combined Diph- theria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough only
Under 1	20	368	—	—	—	—
1	9	150	—	—	—	—
2	5	21	—	—	—	—
3	2	22	—	—	1	—
4	1	4	2	6	16	—
5—9	21	4	9	130	249	—
10—14	3	—	—	95	6	—
15 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	61	569	11	231	272	—

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

The following table shows the number of vaccinations carried out during the year under arrangements made by the Middlesex County Council.

Age	Vaccination	Revaccination
Under 1	408	—
1	18	1
2—4	12	3
5—14	15	14
15 and over	17	63
TOTALS	470	81

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

The following summary shows the inspections and other duties carried out by the Inspectorate during the year 1955, when a total of 7,852 visits were made.

Houses inspected under Housing Act	204
Premises visited under Public Health Acts	569
Re-visits to houses and other premises	1,574
Visits to works in progress	402
Unclassified visits	364
Visits to factories	249
„ outworkers' premises	102
„ old metal dealer's premises	12
„ food premises (see table on page 18)	1,642
„ slaughterhouses	49
„ piggeries	104
„ gypsy encampments and caravans	59
„ tents, vans, sheds	21
„ common lodging houses	4
„ school premises	40
„ public conveniences	106
„ swimming pool	28
„ petroleum installations	202
„ canal boats	1
Visits <i>re</i> Shops Acts	71
„ Pet Animals Act	10
„ Fireguards Act	147
„ unsound food	184
„ nuisances from animals	17
„ accumulations of refuse	140
„ water supply	18
„ drainage and cesspools	312
„ ponds and ditches	42
„ rats and mice	180
„ insect pests	165
„ infectious diseases	189
„ alleged overcrowding	19
„ Council houses... ..	60
„ permitted numbers of occupants	23
„ smoke nuisances	18
Smoke observations	30
Council houses inspected	88
Water samples taken	43
Milk samples taken	32
Ice cream samples taken	23
Interviews	309
Informal Notices served	476
Statutory Notices served	30

HOUSING

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	447
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	687
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	267
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	243
3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.	
(a) <i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b) <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	19
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(c) <i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8

(3) Number of dwelling houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners	...	...	...	6
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	...	...	...	3
<i>(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Acts, 1936.</i>				
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	1

With reference to the eleven properties in Item 1 (3) above, the following action was taken:—

(i) Demolition Orders were made in respect of the under-mentioned properties:—

38, Gutteridge Street, Hillingdon.

2, Ash's Cottages, Pield Heath Road, Hillingdon.

Both of the above cottages were demolished during the year under review.

In addition, the following six properties were demolished during 1955 following earlier Demolition Orders or informal action:—

1, 2, 3, 4, Knightscode Cottages, Breakspear Road North, Harefield.

1, 2, Barns Farm Cottages, Harlington Road, Hillingdon.

(ii) Closing Orders, in accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, were made in respect of the under-mentioned properties:—

53, Austin Waye, Uxbridge.

6, Wharf Cottages, Iver Lane, Cowley.

"Cranfield Cottage," Rickmansworth Road, Harefield.

120, Pield Heath Road, Hillingdon.

(iii) In respect of the under-mentioned properties undertakings were given in accordance with Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and accepted by the Council, that the premises would not be used for human habitation until they were either demolished or works of repair carried out which would render the houses fit to be used as living accommodation:—

51, 52, Austin Waye, Uxbridge.

2, 3, 4, Knightscode Cottages, Breakspear Road North, Harefield.

With reference to Item 3 (d) (1) above, Closing Orders were made in respect of the following:—

73, Cowley Road, Uxbridge—first floor back bedroom.

14, High Street, Uxbridge—all rooms on first and second floors.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Following the receipt of a Government instruction to local authorities calling for the resumption of slum clearance activities, a new survey of the district was made to revise the previous slum clearance report submitted to the Council in June, 1951.

It was decided to secure the required information by means of a street by street inspection throughout the whole of the Borough thus ensuring the systematic consideration of all dwellings in the area. The survey therefore included a re-assessment of those properties which were the subject of pre-war resolution or deferment and comprised as complete a summary of sub-standard houses as it was possible to compile.

An analysis of the information obtained showed that there were 350 dwelling houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the House Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair in accordance with the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 were received during the year.

Upon completion of the required repairs one Certificate of Revocation was issued.

NUISANCES

Nine hundred and thirty-one individual complaints were received relating to the following matters:—

Insanitary condition of house	...	...	...	19
General defects	...	...	...	29
Defective chimneys and fireplaces	...	...	...	10
„ walls and ceilings	...	...	...	3
„ floors	...	...	...	3
„ roofs and guttering	...	...	...	19
„ doors and windows	...	...	...	5
„ drains and sanitary fittings	...	...	...	148
„ water storage tanks and fittings	...	...	...	22
„ sinks and wash-hand basins	...	...	...	6

Defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	39
Nuisance from dampness	...	...	...	...	31
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	4
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	11
Wasps' nests	...	...	...	...	64
Accumulation of refuse or manure	...	...	...	...	49
Nuisance from keeping animals	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ gypsies	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ rats or mice	...	...	...	...	358
„ „ ponds or ditches	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ insect pests	...	...	...	...	49
„ „ smoke	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous nuisances...	...	...	...	...	25

Each of the above complaints was investigated and where conditions were found justifying action by the Department the appropriate steps were taken.

FACTORIES

The following tables show the number of inspections made, defects found, and the result of action taken.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupier prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	22	14	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	169	227	19	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	7	8	1	—
TOTAL	198	249	21	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	21	21	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to home work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	22	22	—	2	—

3. HOME-WORK.

During the year 102 visits of inspection were made to the homes of outworkers residing in the Borough; all the premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

PETROLEUM INSTALLATIONS

During the year 202 visits were paid to the 97 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, petroleum mixtures and carbide of calcium.

In continuation of the policy commenced in November, 1951, the testing of underground storage tanks of twenty or more years' existence has been carried out during the year. Two such tanks were subjected to the air pressure test and both were found to be satisfactory.

DEALERS IN OLD METAL AND MARINE STORES

On 12th January, 1953, the Secretary of State made an Order, at the request of the Council, bringing into operation the provisions of Section 86 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907, which requires dealers in old metal to register their names and addresses with the Council and keep records as laid down in the Act.

The names and address of eleven dealers are registered, and all the premises were inspected during the year.

FIREGUARDS

Arising out of the commencement of the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952, visits were made to premises where it was known or thought likely that appliances coming within the meaning of the provisions of this Act would be sold. A total of 147 visits of inspection and reinspection were made.

As a result 22 retailers were found to have in their possession for sale 108 fires which failed to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953. This number comprised 68 electric, 12 gas, and 28 oil fires and/or heaters. An advisory and warning letter was addressed to all known retailers drawing attention to the requirements of the Act and Regulations.

It is expected that future inspections of heating appliances will show a much higher degree of compliance with the law than was found to be the case on the coming into force of the regulations.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are no heavy industries in the District and such industrial undertakings as exist are in the main situated in the township of Uxbridge, where the establishment of an industrial estate is tending to concentrate these activities in a selected zone. Apart from the foregoing there is a number of large establishments using commercial-type steam raising plant, *i.e.* factories, hospital and schools, and these are principally located in Hillingdon and Harefield.

A total of 30 timed observations were made during the year involving two factories, and on four occasions smoke was observed to be emitted in such quantity as to be a nuisance.

At one factory it was admitted that the existing plant was insufficient for the demand and that because of this a £12,000 reconstruction programme was to be put in hand. In this connection plans have been submitted to the Borough Surveyor and an assurance was given that in the meantime every effort would be made to minimise the emission of smoke.

At another factory operating an old installation, an engineer of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service visited the plant and demonstrated a method of firing which would ensure minimum smoke emission. In this instance it is held by the proprietors that the recurrence of smoke nuisance is in part attributable to the shortage of skilled stokers, but it is also maintained that the fluctuating quality of the fuel is responsible for much of the trouble. This firm has recently secured the services of a well experienced stoker-engineer and it is hoped that the plant will operate more efficiently in the future.

For the purpose of recording smoke observations the standard of measurement used is that laid down by the Ministry of Health Model Byelaw in relation to black smoke. Although this Byelaw

is not in operation in Uxbridge it is considered reasonable that the degree of efficiency of industrial plant should be such as to be comparable to that required under the Byelaw.

WATER SUPPLY

The piped water supply of the District is provided from the mains of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, and has been adequate for the requirements of the District.

During the year nine samples of water have been taken in the Uxbridge town area, the district formerly served by the Council's water undertaking, and seventeen samples taken in the outer areas. In addition, following complaints concerning the taste or colour of the water, two samples were collected from two different premises. All of the twenty-eight samples were submitted to the Regional Public Health Laboratory for examination. Each was found to be of high bacterial purity and safe for drinking purposes.

With a view to ensuring the purity of the water supply drawn from the deep wells in the chalk in the Springwell area at Harefield, the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company carried out a topographical survey to ascertain possible sources of pollution. In this connection the cesspools associated with a small group of dwellings and smallholdings in the vicinity, were considered potentially suspect. Investigations and tests were made by the Public Health Department in co-operation with representatives of the Water Company. These tests failed to reveal conditions which could be said to give rise to public health nuisances but in order to take every possible precaution against the likelihood of contamination of the sub-soil, the Company carried out works which brought the cesspools to a structural standard acceptable to them.

The number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from the public mains are estimated to be as follows:—

		<i>Number of</i> <i>Dwelling-houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Direct to the house	...	16,141	57,936
By means of stand-pipes	...	1	4

Two samples of water from the distribution system at Harefield Hospital and three from a well supply at Moorcroft Occupational Centre taken during the year were found to be satisfactory.

During the year ten samples have been taken from the deep wells supplying five factories where water is used for industrial purposes, food preparation and/or drinking purposes. The Laboratory reports showed the water from all the wells to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING POOL

The Council's swimming pool was open to the public during the season May to September.

As in previous years the routine examination of the swimming pool water was carried out throughout the season, frequent tests being made to establish the degree of free chlorine present in the water. The results fluctuated according to the number of bathers using the pool, but on no occasion was it found that the amount of available free chlorine present was reduced below the minimum desirable standard.

FOOD HYGIENE

The supervision of all food premises has been carried out during the year, not only in respect of the sanitary circumstances obtaining, but in the practice of hygienic food handling.

The following tables show a broad indication of the nature and extent of the inspections made and action taken.

(a) INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Type of Premises	Premises		Visits Made	Notices Served
	Total No.	Inspected		
Restaurants and Cafes ...	56	56	417	28
Industrial Canteens	36	35	61	10
School Canteens	15	15	34	9
Ice Cream Premises	100	97	231	1
Licensed Premises	67	28	60	5
Dairies and Milk Distributors' Premises	16	16	26	1
Preserved Food Premises ...	18	18	103	—
Bakehouses	15	15	45	5
Bakers' Shops	17	17	36	2
Butchers' Shops	33	33	117	14
Grocer Shops and Wholesale Depots	93	71	279	18
Wet Fish Shops	13	13	46	3
Fried Fish Shops	12	12	24	2
Confectioners' Shops	51	33	88	—
Greengrocers' Shops	30	28	57	6
Food Hawkers' Premises ...	4	4	18	—
TOTALS	576	491	1,642	104

(b) REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES.

Act or Regulation	Type of Premises	No. of Premises
Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14...	Ice Cream	76
	Preserved Food	18
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 ...	Dairies	1
	Distributors of Milk	15
Middlesex County Council Act, 1950, Section 11	Food Hawkers	4
		114

(c) DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Water Closets:

Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	1
Not properly screened	...	...	3
Dirty W.C. compartment	...	...	1
Lack of " Hand Washing " notice	...	...	4
			— 9

Drainage:

Defective drains	...	...	...	...	2
Defective or insufficient gullies	...	...	...	...	2
Defective manhole covers	...	...	...	...	1
					— 5

Sinks:

Want of sink	...	...	...	...	2
Defective sink	...	...	...	...	3
Hot water required to sink	...	...	...	...	5
Cold water required to sink	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary wall surfaces around sink	...	...	...	...	4
					— 16

Washing Facilities for Staff:

Absence of or defective hand basin	...	...	...	...	4
Absence of hot water	...	...	...	...	6
Absence of cold water	...	...	...	...	3
Provision of towels and soap	...	...	...	...	6
					— 19

Uncleanliness:

Personal	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Food Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	
Preparation Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Food delivery vans	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Refrigerators	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Handling of foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	
							—	62

Utensils:

Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Unclean	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	
							—	27

Refuse:

Defective or insufficient dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	
							—	24

Rats and Mice:

Number of infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	
Rat-proofing required	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
							—	31

General Defects:

Defective plaster (number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Insanitary condition of walls and ceilings (number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Inadequate ventilation (number of rooms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Defective food stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
							—	21

Animals:

Nuisance from keeping animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
							—	2

Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
							—	3

TOTAL 219

MEAT INSPECTION

(i) *Butcher's Shops.*

During the year 16 cwts. 80 lbs. of fresh meat, home killed and imported, was found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed.

(ii) *Slaughterhouses.*

There is one slaughterhouse in the area where pigs are killed regularly throughout the year, and the following table shows the number of animals slaughtered during 1955. In all cases the carcase and organs were inspected.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows and Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	—	141	—
Number inspected	—	—	—	141	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...				—	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...				1	
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci				0·71%	
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...				—	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...				3	
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis				2·13%	
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...					
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...					
Generalised and totally condemned					

The total weight of diseased and unsound meat included in the above table was 46 lbs.

UNSOUND FOOD

(i) The total amount of food (other than butchers' meat) surrendered for destruction during the year was 2 tons 7 cwts. 62 lbs., as shown in the following table.

<i>Class of Food</i>	<i>Quantity</i>		
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat—tinned	1	1	11
Meat Pies			70
Soup—tinned			43
Fish—tinned			59
Fish—wet			98
Poultry			99
Cooking Fat			28
Cheese			6
Milk—tinned		2	93
Milk—dried		1	—
Fruit—tinned		9	48
Fruit—dried			20
Vegetables—tinned		7	21
Sugar... ..			5
Jam and Marmalade		1	12
Flour			12
Cereals and Cake			83
Custard Powder			1
Pickles and Sauces			9
Coffee			4
Cocoa			1
Salt			11
	2	7	62

In the absence of a local authority refuse destructor all unsound food for disposal is treated with an application of strong disinfectant, containers being broken open for this purpose, and is then buried under supervision of a member of the staff of the Public Health Department at the Council's refuse tip.

MILK SUPPLY

The responsibilities of this Authority under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders are limited to the supervision of dairies and retail distributors' premises, in respect of which twenty-six visits were made during the year.

(a) PREMISES AND DISTRIBUTORS.

The following table shows the number of registered premises and distributors within the district:—

Dairies	1
Retail distributors	15
Retail distributors from other districts	6

Thirty-two principal and eight supplementary licences were granted for the sale of designated milks.

(b) MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

As in previous years, samples of milk have been taken at regular intervals from the various schools in the area, which are supplied by three different distributors.

Thirty-two such samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the methylene blue and phosphatase tests, and all were found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

During the year twenty-three samples of ice cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the methylene blue reduction test. Details of the results of these examinations are as follows:—

<i>Grade</i>								<i>No. of Samples</i>
I ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
II ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
III ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

There are one hundred premises where ice cream is stored or sold, and a total of 231 visits were made to such premises during the year.

PET SHOPS

The six premises licensed under the Pet Animals Act, 1951, were visited and inspected during the year. All were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition and the licences were renewed.

One shop sells fish only and the others sell birds, mice, rabbits, reptiles and tortoises in addition to fish; two shops sell puppies.

DISINFECTION

When required steam disinfections are carried out at the Council's plant at Cowley Mill Road following the occurrence of certain diseases. The installation has again been inspected by the Council's insurers and found to be maintained in good working order.

Home disinfections have been carried out following the occurrence of certain infectious and other specified diseases.

DISINFESTATION

During the year under review six occupied private or Council dwelling houses, which were found to be bug infested, were disinfested.

The spraying of unoccupied Council houses was continued and during the year 182 new houses and 107 vacant houses were treated.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

As in previous years, the many watercourses, lakes, ponds, ditches, etc., throughout the District were treated with a larvaecide.

The material used is manufactured specifically for mosquito control, and it is considered that some relief from this summer pest is afforded the residents in the area.

RODENT CONTROL

The rodent control section of the Public Health Department continued to operate, and works of disinfection were carried out at factories, wholesale depots, business premises and private dwelling-houses. Works were also carried out at the Council's refuse tip, depots and premises.

The majority of the infestations investigated on business and private premises were found to be of minor character.

In continuance of the treatment of sewers first carried out in 1944 and repeated each year, two further maintenance treatments of the sewers in the town area of Uxbridge and the outer areas of the district were carried out during the year. Systematic baiting and poisoning campaigns took place and all areas of infestation detected were dealt with.

PATHOLOGICAL WORK

Material requiring pathological examination is sent to the Neasden Public Health Laboratory, but in certain instances this has been submitted to the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

There is close co-operation between the personal health services provided by the Middlesex County Council and the environmental health services of the Borough Council, as the Borough Medical Officer of Health is also the Area Medical Officer supervising the personal health services on behalf of the County Council.

An outline of the County Council services is given below:—

CLINICS

Central Hillingdon, British Legion Hall, Uxbridge Road	...	...	...	1
Hillingdon, Oak Farm Clinic, Long Lane	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9			
Harefield, St. Mary's Church Hall	...	1, 2, 3, 4, 7		
Uxbridge Church Hall	...	...	...	1, 4
Uxbridge Clinic, Local County Offices, High Street	...	...	...	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10

Mobile Clinic attends—

Cowley Recreation Ground ...	...	1, 4
Violet Farm Estate ...	...	4
British Legion Hall, Uxbridge Road		2, 4, 7
Ivy House Road, Ickenham ...	...	4

KEY TO SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Child Welfare	6. Ophthalmic
2. Ante-Natal	7. Post-natal
3. School Minor Ailments	8. Dental .
4. Immunisation and Vaccination	9. Orthodontic
5. Speech Therapy	10. Orthopædic

Times and days of various sessions may be obtained on enquiry at any of the Clinics or to the Area Health Office, Local County Offices, High Street, Uxbridge. Uxbridge 8290.

HEALTH VISITING

The service makes available practical advice on all matters relating to the health of the family. Qualified Health Visitors, who are also School Nurses, are in attendance at clinic sessions and also visit homes where there are babies and young children.

DAY NURSERIES

All enquiries concerning applications for admission to Day Nurseries should be addressed to the Area Medical Officer, Area Health Office, Local County Offices, High Street, Uxbridge.

High Street Day Nursery, Uxbridge.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICES

MIDWIVES.

The following midwives practice in the Borough:—

Miss I. M. Bailey (District Nurse/Midwife), 13, Harvil Road, Harefield (Harefield 2233).

Miss E. I. Johnson, 143, Tudor Road, Hayes (Hayes 1406).

Miss I. K. Gardner, 74, Halford Road, Ickenham (Uxbridge 4389).

Miss J. Reed, 18, Churchill Avenue, Hillingdon (Uxbridge 3913).

Mrs. K. M. Griffin, 8, Churchill Avenue, Hillingdon (Uxbridge 2679).

Miss M. E. Thame, 20, East Road, West Drayton (West Drayton 3175).

HOME NURSES.

The following home nurses practice in the Borough:—

Harefield

Miss I. M. Bailey, 13, Harvil Road, Harefield (Harefield 2233).

Uxbridge

Mrs. E. M. Galley, "Wardley," Warren Road, Uxbridge (Uxbridge 4775).

Cowley

Mrs. B. J. Steward, 8, Park Road, Uxbridge (Uxbridge 4907)

Hillingdon

Mrs. B. D. Galley, 12, Churchill Avenue, Hillingdon (Uxbridge 2895).

Mrs. M. T. Shannon, 35, Victoria Avenue, Hillingdon (Uxbridge 8103).

Ickenham

Mrs. L. McKee, 10, Court Road, Ickenham (Ruislip 7558).

HOME HELP SERVICE

All enquiries concerning this service should be made to the Area Health Office, Uxbridge.

Home Help is provided in cases where an emergency arises owing to illness in the home and in cases of confinement taking place at home. Payment for this service is assessed according to income.

PRIVATE MIDWIVES AND PRIVATE NURSING HOMES

The names and addresses of Private Midwives and Private Nursing Homes can be supplied on application to the Area Health Office, Uxbridge.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Diphtheria immunisation, whooping cough immunisation and vaccination will usually be carried out by family doctors. In addition, provision for these procedures is available at the various County Council Clinics.

CHIROPODY

A chiropody clinic for nursing and expectant mothers and children up to the age of five years, is held at Minet Clinic, Coldharbour Lane, Hayes, on Friday, at 1.30 p.m. Attendance by appointment only.

SOME OTHER SERVICES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service is administered by the Middlesex County Council Fire and Ambulance Service. In an emergency the Ambulance Service can be called by telephoning "999" or "0" and asking for Ambulance Service. Other enquiries should be made to Fire and Ambulance Service Headquarters, Harrow Road, Wembley (Telephone No. WEMbley 1121 or 4861) or *local Fire Station*.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

For the care of all children deprived of normal home life, adoptions, Child Life Protection, residential nurseries, etc.

Children's Area Officer, No. 8 Area:

F. W. Clay, Local County Offices, High Street,
Uxbridge (Uxbridge 8290).

WELFARE DEPARTMENT

For the care and supervision of the aged and infirm and their effects; the supervision and assistance to the blind and other severely handicapped adults.

Area Welfare Officer, No. 8 Area:

A. E. Mansell, Local County Offices, High Street,
Uxbridge (Uxbridge 8290).

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Mental Welfare Officers (Duly Authorised), Local County Offices,
High Street, Yiewsley (West Drayton 2432 and 2531).

Divisional Mental Welfare Officer:

A. G. Ash, 69, Helen Avenue, Feltham (FELtham 2096).

Psychiatric Social Worker:

Miss M. Bosanquet, Local County Offices, High Street,
Yiewsley.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

Psychiatrist:

W. Robson, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., Child Guidance
Clinic, 255, High Street, Uxbridge (Uxbridge 8290).

NORTH KENSINGTON MARRIAGE WELFARE CENTRE
Branch Clinic (Birth Control, Gynæcology, Sub-Fertility, Marriage
Problems and Remedial Exercises):

Uxbridge Clinic, Local County Offices, High Street,
Uxbridge. Thursday, 1.45-3.15 p.m.; 5.30-7.0 p.m.

THE UXBRIDGE DEANERY ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL WELFARE WORK

Deanery Worker:

Miss L. G. Polman, St. Andrew's Church Hall, Hillingdon
Road, Uxbridge (Uxbridge 2208). Monday to Friday
10 a.m.-12 noon.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

Uxbridge Registration District, Superintendent Registrar:

Miss E. K. O'Keefe, Local County Offices, Uxbridge
(Uxbridge 8290).

Uxbridge Registration Sub-District, Registrar of Births and Deaths:

G. Hardcastle, Local County Offices, Uxbridge (Uxbridge
8290).

Hillingdon Hospital, Royal Lane, Hillingdon:

Mrs. H. Burke (Uxbridge 6490).

